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Ohio Secretary of State

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July 13, 2012

Jane Platten, Director
J. Patrick McDonald, Deputy Director
Cuyahoga County Board of Elections
2925 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Re: Tie Vote Regarding In-Person Absentee Voting Hours

Dear Director Platten and Deputy Director McDonald:

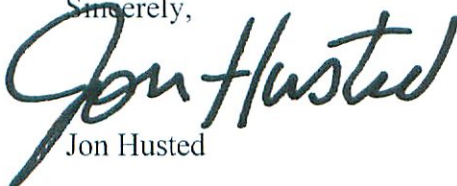
In order to ensure uniformity across counties and reduce lines at polling places for the November 6, 2012 General Election, my office is mailing an absentee ballot application to every registered voter in Ohio in "active" status and every registered voter in Ohio who voted in the 2008 presidential election regardless of the voter status in the Statewide Voter Registration Database. See Directive 2012-24. Because Ohio voters have the option to vote from home via absentee ballot during the more-than-750-hour period that covers the no fault absentee voting period, there is no need for extended hours for in-person absentee voting.

I cannot create unequal access from one county board to another, but I must also keep in mind the resources available to each county. The reality is that local boards are operating under tight budget constraints on a day to day basis under their normal business hours. There is sufficient time already available during the Cuyahoga County Board's regular business hours for the casting of absent voters' ballots in person.

Consistent with my stated policy at the Akron regional conference on June 19th, I am setting in-person absentee voting hours to be that of the Board's Monday through Friday office hours. The Board is also reminded that under Ohio Revised Code 3509.03 in-person absentee voting must be available until 6:00 p.m., Friday, November 2, 2012.

Cuyahoga County will offer ample time to vote prior to Election Day. In addition to no fault absentee voting by mail, in-person absentee voting in Cuyahoga County will be available approximately 40-hours-per-week for those who wish to complete in-person absentee ballots.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted

cc: Cuyahoga County Board Members